

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 165965

60

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 165965

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, KS, MARR

SUBJECT: GON INTEREST IN KOREAN SECURITY SITUATION

REF: THE HAGUE 3311

1. IN REPLYING TO REQUEST OF DIRGEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS
RUTTEN FOR U.S.ASSESSMENT OF KOREAN SECURITY SITUATION,
EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) IN GENERAL, U.S. DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE HAS BEEN FUND-
AMENTAL CHANGE IN THE SECURITY SITUATION ON THE KOREAN PEN-
INSULA. WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT NORTH KOREA IS PLANNING
ANY MAJOR MILITARY ACTION AGAINST THE ROK IN THE IMMEDIATE
FUTURE. FURTHERMORE, WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT OUR OWN
SECURITY POLICIES IN COMBINATION WITH THE STRENGTH OF ROK
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PAGE 02 STATE 165965

FORCES WILL CONTINUE TO DETER NORTH KOREA FROM ANY MILITARY

ADVENTURES. INCIDENTS BETWEEN NORTH KOREAN AND ROK FORCES WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO OCCUR AND THERE IS CONTINUING POSSIBILITY OF LIMITED NK ACTIONS PARTICULARLY IN WEST COAST ISLANDS.

(B) WHILE WE DETECT NO SIGNS OF IMMINENT NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION, THE EVENTS OF RECENT MONTHS IN INDOCHINA HAVE CREATED CONSIDERABLE APPREHENSION IN THE ROK WITH REGARD TO NORTH KOREAN INTENTIONS TOWARD THE SOUTH. THESE FEARS

WERE REINFORCED BY THE SUDDEN APRIL VISIT OF NORTH KOREAN PRESIDENT KIM IL SUNG TO PEKING AND HIS LATER TRAVELS TO EASTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA. ALTHOUGH INITIAL ROK CONCERN HAS NOW LESSENED, THE ROK HAS ADOPTED A SERIES OF MEASURES TO RESTRICT POLITICAL DISSIDENCE AND INCREASE NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS TO DEFEND AGAINST ANY POSSIBLE NORTH KOREAN ATTACK.

(C) FOR THE REMAINDER OF THIS YEAR AT LEAST NORTH KOREA IS MOST LIKELY TO CONCENTRATE ON ITS DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE TO ISOLATE THE ROK INTERNATIONALLY. KIM'S EUROPEAN AND AFRICAN JOURNEY WAS PRINCIPALLY INTENDED TO SEEK SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREA'S EFFORTS TO ENHANCE ITS THIRD WORLD IMAGE. HIS TRAVELS WERE ALSO INTENDED TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR NORTH KOREA'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN NON-ALIGNED GROUP, WHICH WILL BE CONSIDERED AT THE CONFERENCE OF NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS IN LIMA IN AUGUST, AS WELL AS ITS EFFORTS TO HAVE THE UNGA CALL FOR DISSOLUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMAND AND WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. FORCES FROM KOREA.

(D) SENIOR USG OFFICERS HAVE MADE REPEATED PUBLIC STATEMENTS DURING THE PAST TWO MONTHS REAFFIRMING OUR INTENT TO HONOR OUR SECURITY COMMITMENT TO THE ROK AS WELL AS EMPHASIZING THE RISKS NORTH KOREA WOULD INCUR IF IT UNDERTOOK ANY AGGRESSIVE ACTION AGAINST THE ROK. WE BELIEVE OUR STATEMENTS HAVE SERVED BOTH TO ASSUAGE ROK CONCERNS AND TO DISPEL ANY NORTH KOREAN DOUBTS OF OUR DETERMINATION.

2. SHOULD DUTCH WISH MORE DETAILED REVIEW OF KOREAN SITUATION, WE WOULD SUGGEST FURTHER DISCUSSIONS IN DEPARTMENT OR EMBASSY SEOUL. INGERSOLL

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PAGE 03 STATE 165965

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